posed to be taken does not, therefore, arise.

Degradation of environment by Soutb Eastern Coalfield

*395. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI:
SHRI CHHOTUBHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the wanton degradation of environment by South Eastern Coal fields in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, what remedial steps are proposed to be taken in this regard; and

(c) what steps have been taken to ensure that open cast and underground mining do not affect the environment adversely in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (c) Coal Mining activity particularly the Opencast certainly have an adverse effect on environment due to degradation of land and air and water pollution etc. According to the procedure laid down by the Government, Environmental Management Plans (EMPs) are required to be formulated as an integral part of the coal projects. These EMPs are scrutinised by an Expert Committee in the Ministry of Environment and Forests and only after formal clear-a-nce of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, investment decisions are taken. These EMPs incorporate various abatement measures, viz., control of air and water pollution and land reclamation and afforestation etc. and adequate financial provisions are also being made for such protection measures.

Acording to available information, there is no wanton degradation of *environment by* South Eastern Coalfields Limited in Madhya Pradesh areas. In the course of mining operations, some degradation may be caused, but preventive measures to mitigate the adverse effects have also been initiated in a number of mines. Some of the measures are:-

(i) Environmental impact asses-ments and preparation of Environment Management Plans (EMPs) for carrying out coal mining in an environmentally compatible manner.

(ii) Abatement measures to control air - water and noise pollution.

(iii) Back filling and biological restoration of degraded/decoaled areas and appropriate solid waste management.

(iv) Monitoring of environmental protective measures through Environmental Cell.

(v) Optimisation of land use.

Selection of SC|ST Candidates for National Defence Academy

*396. SHRI PRAKASH YASH-WANT AMBEDKAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the reservation policy is not-being implemented[1] in the National Defence Academy, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) what is the number of candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes communities selected for the National Defence Academy during the years 1990-91 and' 1991-92?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) There is no reservation for any caste or community for selection to the NDA Selection is done on merit, subject